and for such uses*as shall seem good to him, during the said term and period of ten years, beginning on the said day and date of the printing thereof; together with the prorogation aforesaid, for a like term of ten years, for the said Histories† and Vignettes by him heretofore printed; enjoining & ordering you respectively by these presents that you suffer and permit the said Maistre Geofroy Tory this our present gift & grant, licence, permission, and Privilege, to enjoy and make use of fully and peaceably, neither offering nor causing to be offered any hindrance to him therein; and, furthermore, that you suffer not nor permit, in any manner whatsoever, any other Booksellers or Printers in our said Kingdom, Provinces and Lordships to print or to have printed, during the said period, the said Book and Hours as aforesaid; under pain of a hundred silver Marks, to be paid to us, & confiscation of the said Book and Hours wherewith they shall have set at naught our will. For such is our pleasure. Given at Chenonceaux, the fifth day of September, in the year of grace One Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty-Six, and of our reign the Twelfth.

Thus signed: By the King, Breton: & sealed with yellow wax
on a single tag. And in confirmation signed:
Lormier: sealed with green wax
on a double tag.‡

* *The Hours, for which much of Tory's finest work was created, varied according to the place where they were to be used; Horae ad usum Sarum, etc.*

† *That is, historical pictures. 'History, a pictorial representation of an event or series of events.'* —NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY. *See, for example, pages* 8, 74, *and* 75, *infra.*

‡ *Queue: 'Tag, the strip of parchment bearing the pendent seal of a deed.'*—N.E.D.

Geofroy Tory of Bourges offers humble greeting to
all true and devoted Lovers of well-formed Letters.

POets, Orators, and others learned in Letters and Sciences,* when they have made and put together some product of their studious diligence and toil, are wont to present it to some great lord of the Court or the Church, lifting him up by letters and laudation to the knowledge of other men; and this to flatter him and to the end that they may be always so welcome about him, that he seems to be bound & obliged to give them some great gift, some benefice, or some office, as reward for the labours and vigils they have put to the making & composition of their said works & offerings. I could easily do the like with this little book; but, considering that, if I should present it to one rather than to another, some feeling of envious despite might be caused, I have thought that it would be well of me to make of it a present to you all, O devoted Lovers of well-made letters, without placing the great before the lowly, unless it be in so far as he loves letters more, and is more at home in virtuous things. Thus the Prelates & great Lords, who are eminent, all, in goodly virtues, will have their part therein, whilst you will not lose yours.

I am vexed that some have sought to persuade me from setting forth what I have written for you in this work of ours, & that they have tried to make of me an ungrateful man in wishing me not to teach a very beautiful and goodly thing. They remind me of those who, when they have some unknown sheet or book, do not make it known to their brother, or their father. Methinks such men are so wicked and so covetous that, if all the flame & fire in the world were extinct save only a single candle which they had lighted, and that none could have fire but from their single candle, they would not consent that their fond mother should light one thereat, to have fire for warming and nourishing their little brother. They are of the nature of a beast which Pliny and Solinus affirm to be so vicious, that, knowing that its urine stiffens and congeals into a precious stone, which is called in Greek λυγκουριον,† and which is like the amber stone that sets fire to straws, it will not permit it to come into the hands and use of man, so that it covers it and hides it in the earth as secretly as it can. Thus did the noble artificer of the windows of Sainte Chapelle at Bourges, which the Duc de Berry named

* *That is, various branches of knowledge. 'Sciences' is used in this sense throughout the book.*

† *Latin, lyncurium, 'a hard transparent gem . . . formed of lynxes' urine; probably the hyacinth or tourmaline.' See Pliny, Nat. Hist.* VIII, 38, 57; *Solinus (Caius Julius)*, II, 38.

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